

REMARKS

Applicants have renumbered claims 107-125 as 106-124, in view of the omission of a claim 106 from the application and in view of the Examiner's treatment of the claims as carrying the revised numbering. See Office Action of 10/7/04, page 2, paragraph 2. Claim numbers discussed below refer to the claims as renumbered.

Claims 3, 14-34, 63, 68-77, 81-82, 87, 92-96 and 107-119 have been cancelled. Claims 1-2, 61-62, and 83 have been amended to limit the claims to the elected subject matter. The dependencies in claims 120 and 121 have been amended in view of the revised claim numbering discussed above. New claims 125-133 have been added. Support for the new claims can be found in the specification, at page 20, line 10, to page 21, line 11. The claim amendments and cancellations are made without prejudice to the prosecution of the deleted subject matter in continuing applications. With these amendments, the pending claims are 1-2, 9-13, 61-62, 65-67, 83, 88-91, 99, 101, 106, 120-121, and 124-133.

Claims 1, 2, 61, 62 have also been amended to further clarify the invention. In claim 1, the A ring was twice stated as being optionally substituted. One such statement has been deleted. In addition, the definition of the b-ring in claim 1 has been amended from "the b-ring is a 5-9 membered ring" to

"the b-ring is a 5-8 membered ring." Claim 2 has been amended to clarify the optional substituents on the ~~R_m~~ and ~~R_n~~ groups. Support for this amendment can be found in claim 1, from which claim 2 is dependent. Claim 61 has been amended to clarify the optional substituents on the A ring. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification, at page 36, lines 24-25 and page 8, lines 1-3. Claim 62 has been amended to clarify the optional substituents on R_A. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification, at page 14, lines 16-20. No new matter has been added to the application by any of the above amendments.

The specification has been amended to update the priority claim.

Claims 1-3, 9-13, 61-63, 65-67, 83, 99, 101, 106, 120-121 and 124 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Office contends that in the absence of the particular moieties intended as substituents, the phrase "optionally substituted" renders the claims indefinite. The Office has also rejected claim 1 on the grounds that the phrase "the b-ring is a 5-9 membered ring" is not clear.

Applicants submit that the present claim amendments overcome the § 112 rejections. The amended claims now clearly indicate the optional substituents. In addition, claim 1 now

states that the b-ring may be 5-8 membered. Withdrawal of the § 112, second paragraph, rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowance of the claims and passage of the case to issue are respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe a discussion of this matter would be helpful, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at (312) 913-0001.

Respectfully submitted,

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